

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5403

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN, LA, OVIP
SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION
ON MISSING IN ACTION

SUMMARY: ON ASSUMPTION THAT PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WILL
VISIT BANGKOK AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING HANDLING OF VISIT, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. ASSUMING PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WILL STOP OVER IN
BANGKOK AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO
MAKE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMISSION DURING
ITS STAY HERE. WE WOULD WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S
COMMENTS ON THESE SUGGESTIONS:

A. ON ARRIVAL THE AIRCRAFT CARRYING THE COMMISSION
WILL BE PARKED BEFORE THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE VIP
TERMINAL AT DON MUANG AIRPORT, BANGKOK. THIS IS MORE
CONVENIENT THAN USING THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE AIRPORT.
WE WILL ASK THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE TO PROVIDE SECURITY
FOR THE AIRCRAFT DURING THE COMMISSION'S STAY IN BANGKOK.
WE ASSUME THAT USAF CREW WILL BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR
LANDING FEES, DUEL, ETC. DAO WILL MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS
AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIRCRAFT CREW. WE

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NEED TO KNOW IDENTITY OF CREW MEMBERS.

B. IN VIEW OF THE GREAT INTEREST THAT CAN BE
ANTICIPATED IN THE MISSION ON THE PART OF THE MEDIA, WE
EXPECT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THAI TELEVISION AND ALL
THREE MAJOR US NETWORKS WILL BE ON HAND. THERE WILL
ALSO BE A LARGE TURNOUT OF THAI AND AMERICAN REPORTERS

AND PHOTOGRAPHERS, AT A MINIMUM SOME BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE.

C. WE PLAN TO HOUSE THE COMMISSION AT THE DUSIT THANI HOTEL, A MODERN AND COMFORTABLE HOTEL CENTRALLY LOCATED AND CONVENIENT TO THE EMBASSY FOR MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS. WE REALIZE THAT SOME MEMBERS OF COMMISSION MAY PREFER OTHER HOTELS IN BANGKOK, AND WE WILL MAKE OTHER RESERVATIONS IF ASKED TO DO SO. WE WILL RESERVE SUITES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS WITH SINGLES FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY. CONTROL ROOM WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT HOTEL FOR ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE, DESPATCH OF VEHICLES AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. VEHICLES WILL BE ASSIGNED TO EACH MEMBER OF COMMISSION DURING STAY IN BANGKOK, AND ADEQUATE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSION STAFF.

D. OFFICE SPACE AT THE EMBASSY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COMMISSION AND STAFF. SECRETARIES AND EXTRA COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL WILL BE ON DUTY, AND C&R WILL BE MANNED THROUGHOUT COMMISSION VISIT. WE NEED INSTRUCTIONS ON SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS. WE WILL SEGREGATE COMMUNICATIONS THAT APPEAR TO BEAR ON COMMISSION VISIT, BUT SUGGEST THAT SOME SUITABLE SLUG FOR ALL COMMISSION TRAFFIC, INCOMING AND OUTGOING, AS THE MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO ENSURE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF COMMUNICATIONS.

E. WE ASSUME THAT ONLY CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY IS ENTITLED TO LOCAL CURRENCY ALLOWANCE UNDER APPROPRIATION
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19FT510. HOW WILL COMMISSION HANDLE ITS EXPENSES DURING BANGKOK VISIT? CONTROL OFFICER ON COMMISSION STAFF COULD BRING SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN CASH TO HANDLE HOTEL BILLS AND OTHER COSTS, OR DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH SPECIFIC ALLOCATION OR ALLOTMENT NUMBERS TO COVER COMMISSION EXPENSES.

F. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO HOST VERY INFORMAL DINNER FOR COMMISSION PRINCIPALS MARCH 19. NO UNOFFICIAL OR FOREIGN GUESTS WOULD BE INVITED. ON MARCH 20, MEMBERS OF COMMISSION AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO USE AMBASSADOR'S POOL AND TENNIS COURT, OR THEY MAY USE THE TIME TO SHOP OR RELAX.

G. AT 1500 MARCH 20 COMMISSION DEPARTS HOTEL FOR AIRPORT FOR 1600 DEPARTURE FOR VIENTIANE. PRESS AND MEDIA WILL SURELY BE AT AIRPORT, BUT DEPARTURE STATEMENT WILL NOT BE NEEDED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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